THE CURVE OF MEAN DAILY TEMPERATURES AT LAWRENCE, KANSAS, FOR TWENTY-ONE YEARS, 1868-1888.

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The accompanying diagram represents the curve of normal daily mean temperatures for 21 years. Upwards of 23,000 observations of Green's standard thermometers are condensed in this curve, the instruments having occupied the same shelter during the entire period of observation. An examination of this curve reveals the fact that the 8th day of January is, upon the average, the coldest day in the year, with mean temperature 18.04°; while the 15th of July is the hottest day, with mean temperature 81°. The coldest period in the year—the very heart of winter—is seen to be the 33 days from the 23d of December to the 24th of January, and the hottest period in the year—the highest heat of summer—is the 31 days from the 2d of July to the 1st of August.

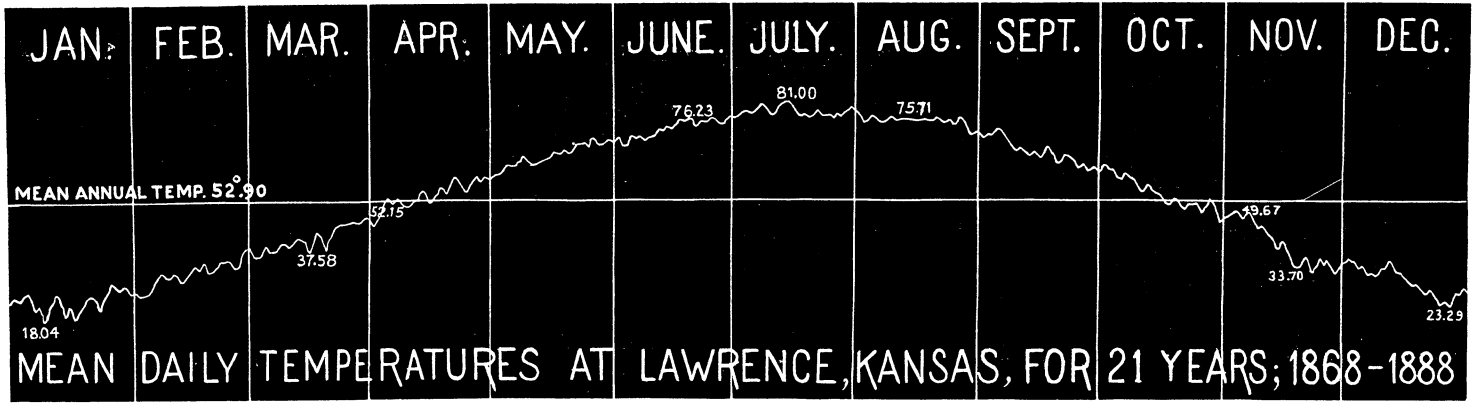
A remarkable rise in temperature takes place from the 20th of March to the 4th of April, the mean temperature increasing from 37.58° to 52.15°, or nearly 15°, in 15 days. This corresponds with the average time of blossoming of our fruit trees—peaches, plums, pears, and early apples.

A still more remarkable change in temperature takes place from the 7th to the 18th of November, the mean dropping from 49.67 to 33.70 degrees, or nearly 16°, in 11 days. This corresponds with the time when our base-burners, furnaces and other permanent heating apparatus are put into operation for the winter's campaign.

The real winter, however, may be considered as beginning on the 15th of December, when the mean daily temperature falls below the freezing point, not to rise above that point until February 15, making the average winter exactly two months in duration.

In like manner the real summer may be regarded as extending from the 17th of June to the 28th of August, this being the entire period during which the mean daily temperature remains above 75°. If, however, we consider summer heat to include the period whose average temperature exceeds 70°, the summer season will embrace the three and a half months from May 26 to September 8.

The remarkable fall in temperature from the 7th to the 18th of November would seem to dispose of the theory that the contact of the earth with the November meteors results in a marked increase in temperature of the earth's atmosphere.



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